

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 01112 311350Z

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EA-09 DHA-02 SCA-01

INSE-00 VOE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00

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O R 311135Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4967

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL SHIRAZ

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 1112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BOAT CASE: AL-NAJDI CARRYING FAMILY OF
NGUYEN LAI

REF: DHAHRAN 1098, STATE 212392

1. AL-NAJDI LEFT RAS TANURA PORT AUGUST 30 FOR CYRUS OFFSHORE
OIL TERMINAL IN IRANIAN WATERS, AFTER TAKING CRUDE AL-NAJDI PLANS TO
RETURN TO RAS TANURA WITHIN THREE DAYS AND EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN RAS
TANURA FOR ANOTHER THREE DAYS TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL CARGO.
CAPTAIN UNCERTAIN AS TO NEXT PORT OF CALL, BUT HIS INSTRUCTION
ONLY STATE AL-NAJDI SHOULD SAIL TO WESTERN EUROPE (PERHAPS GENOA)
VIA CAPE TOWN. CAPTAIN ADAMANT THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO CARRY
REFUGEES FOR SO LONG A VOYAGE.

2. CONSULATE WORKING CLOSELY WITH CANADIAN EMBASSY JIDDA ON
MATTER. DURING AUGUST 30 TELCON WITH CANADIAN EMBASSY VICE CONSUL
JIDDA, POST WAS INFORMED THAT CANADIAN EMBASSY COULD NOT PROCESS
PAPERS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FURTHER WITHOUT INSTRUCTION FROM
OTTAWA AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER BASED
IN CAIRO. POST ADVISED CANADIAN VICE CONSUL TO REQUEST GUIDANCE
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PAGE 02 DHAHRA 01112 311350Z

ASAP FROM OTTAWA. POST REQUESTED CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER

PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO DHAHRAN TO BEGIN PROCESSING THOSE REFUGEES ON AL-NAJDI INTENDING TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA AND LATER TELCON WITH CANADIAN CONSUL INDICATES THESE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL COME TO DHAHRAN. CANADIAN CONSOFF ALSO EXPLAINED THAT DISCUSSIONS IN JIDDA WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF SHIP'S OWNER IS LEADING TO REFUGEES BEING PROVIDED TEMPORARY LODGING IN CONSTRUCTION CAMP NORTH OF DHAHRAN; AFTER THEY DISEMBARK FROM AL-NAJDI. QUESTION OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEES WHILE THEY ARE IN SAUDI ARABIA REMAINS

UNRESOLVED.

3. POSSIBLE THAT PROBLEM MAY ARISE OVER EXACT NUMBER OF REFUGEES CANADIANS MAY BE WILLING TO TAKE. CANADIAN RECORDS SHOW THAT TWELVE OF THOSE ABOARD AL-NAJDI APPEAR TO BE ELIGIBLE TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA. ONE OTHER VIETNAMESE (BROTHER OF ONE OF THE TWELVE) HOWEVER, ALSO SEEKING TO GO TO CANADA. CANADIAN POSITION TOWARD THIS INDIVIDUAL NOT YET CLARIFIED.

4. POST NOTES THAT DEPTTEL, WHICH IT RECEIVED SAME DAY AL-NAJDI ARRIVED IN RAS TANURA, CITES EARLIER MESSAGES ON SUBJECT, WHICH WERE NOT ADDRESSED TO CONGEN. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT FOR POST'S INFORMATION ANY MESSAGES WHICH MIGHT GIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS CASE.

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